

REMARKS

I. Status

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. A complete listing of the claims precedes these remarks. As a result, claims 1-38 remain pending in the application.

II. Reply to Election/Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action dated January 21, 2005, the Examiner issued an election/restriction requirement requiring Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution. The Examiner identifies eight groups of species, Groups I through VIII.

MPEP § 803 states, in part that “if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the groups I-VIII is such that all of the claims may be searched together without imposing any serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully solicited.

To fulfill Applicants’ duty to reply to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species I, encompassing claim 1 (amended) and claims 2-5. This election is made with traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications based on the non-elected claims.

Serial No. 10/732,768
Response to Election/Restriction
Requirement dated January 21, 2005

Docket No. 1232-5226

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500., Order No. 1232-5226. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 22, 2005

By: _____


James Hwa
Registration No. 42,680

Correspondence Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile